

**Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Technology Center 3700**

Application No. 10/715,164
Amendment dated August 6, 2007
Reply to Final Office Action of June 5, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Final Office Action mailed on June 5, 2007, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1-20, and 24 have been canceled. Claims 21-23, and 25-47 are now pending in this application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 21-47 in view of the amendments and the remarks below.

Double-Patenting

Claims 21-47 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 11/200,837. Claims 21-47 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 11/004,586, and claims 1-84 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/818,468. Applicant requests that these provisional rejections be held in abeyance pending the resolution of the allegedly conflicting claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-26, 29-34 and 37-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over G.B.2 307 180 A (Hunt), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,549,585 A (Maher). Claims 27 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt and Maher as applied to claim 25, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,464,172 (Lichtenstein). Claims 28 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

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unpatentable over Hunt and Maher as applied to claims 1-25, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,741,237 A (Walker).

As amended, claim 21 is allowable because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a personally portable vacuum desiccator having all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, none of the references teaches or suggests a desiccator cartridge having a trapping agent in the chamber, or a planar, low profile battery connected to the motor. Accordingly, the Applicant requests allowance of claim 21 and its dependents.

As amended, claim 29 is allowable because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a personally portable vacuum desiccator having all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, none of the references teaches or suggests a desiccator cartridge having a trapping agent or gas flow channel in the chamber, or a planar, low profile battery connected to the motor. Accordingly, the Applicant requests allowance of claim 29 and its dependents.

As amended, claim 37 also is allowable because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, none of the references teach or suggests a vacuum desiccator having a trapping agent in a chamber, a low profile battery connected to a motor, and a micro-filter between the outlet port and the vacuum pump. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 37 and its dependents.

As amended, claim 41 also is allowable because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, none of the references teach or suggests a vacuum desiccator having a housing with a removable desiccator cartridge and a trapping agent in an interior chamber of the desiccator cartridge.

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Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 41 and its dependents.

As amended, claim 45 also is allowable because none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Among other things, none of the references teach or suggest a vacuum desiccator with a low profile housing enclosing a removable desiccator cartridge, vacuum pump, and motor, wherein the desiccator cartridge includes a trapping agent in a chamber, a perforated gas flow channel, and a low profile battery. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 45 and its dependents.

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CONCLUSION

If a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is required, the petition is herewith made. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment made with this Office Action, to Deposit Account Number 50-0326.

In light of all the foregoing, believing that all things raised in the Office Action have been addressed, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior rejections and objections, as well as allowance of the claims and passage of the application to issue. If the Examiner would care to discuss any remaining matters by phone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 214.758.6641.

Respectfully submitted,


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